INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

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DEPUTY INVOLVED HIT SHOOTING, SUSPECT DECEASED
IAB SH 2028178
001-01380-2170-057

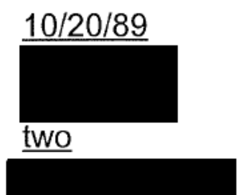
On Monday, January 22, 2001, Sergeants Roger Zombek and Jerry Greene of the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) were notified of a deputy involved shooting which occurred after Century Station personnel responded to a man branishing a firearm and possible shots fired call. IAB Lieutenant Gregory Johnson, Deputy Brian Breadsely, Field Operations Training Unit, and Deputy District Attorney Max Huntsman and Senior Investigators [redacted] of the District Attorney's Justice System Integrity Division, were also present at the scene.

INVOLVED PERSONNEL:

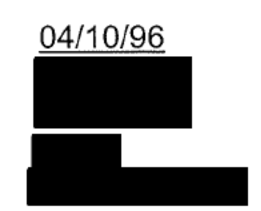
JAIMES, Angel E., Deputy, [redacted]
VARGAS, Angelica P., Deputy, [redacted]
LAZO, Anthony N., Deputy, [redacted]
SAMPEDRO, Marcelo J., Deputy, [redacted]
NORTH, James J., Deputy, [redacted]
Century Station
Field Operations Region II

EMPLOYEE WORK HISTORY:

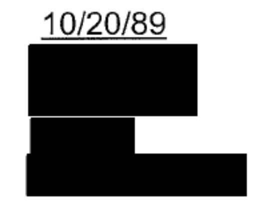
JAIMES, Angel E.

Date of Employment: 10/20/89
Date assigned to Patrol:  [redacted]
Completed Patrol Training:
Prior Shooting Incidents two
Prior Founded Force Incidents [redacted]

VARGAS, Angelica P.

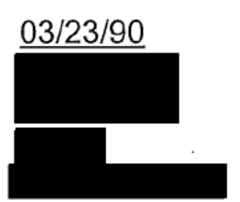
Date of Employment: 04/10/96
Date assigned to Patrol:  [redacted]
Completed Patrol Training:
Prior Shooting Incidents
Prior Founded Force Incidents

LAZO, Anthony N.



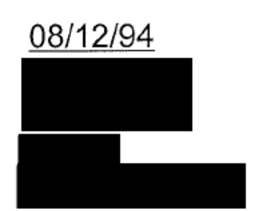
Date of Employment:	10/20/89
Date assigned to Patrol:	[redacted]
Completed Patrol Training:	[redacted]
Prior Shooting Incidents	[redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incidents	[redacted]

SAMPEDRO, Marcelo J.



Date of Employment:	03/23/90
Date assigned to Patrol:	[redacted]
Completed Patrol Training:	[redacted]
Prior Shooting Incidents	[redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incidents	[redacted]

NORTH, James J.



Date of Employment:	08/12/94
Date assigned to Patrol:	[redacted]
Completed Patrol Training:	[redacted]
Prior Shooting Incidents	[redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incidents	[redacted]

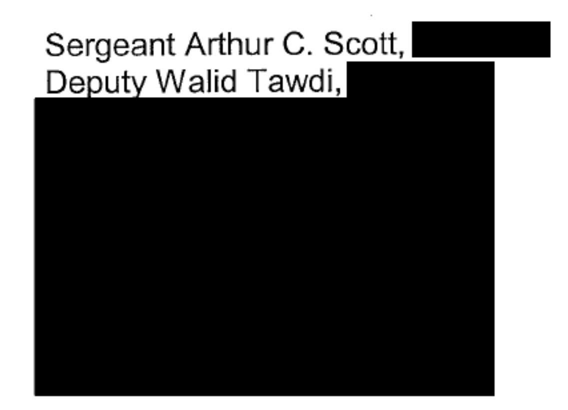
SUSPECT:

ROMAN, Gustavo, MH/47

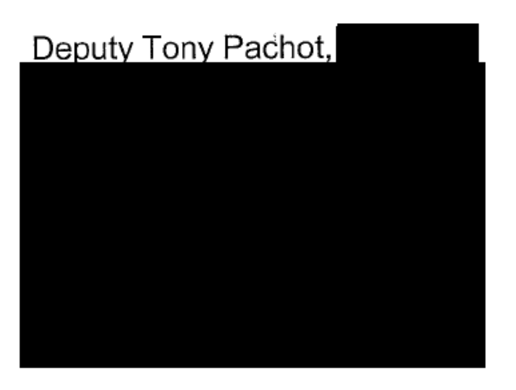
Suspect Gustavo had one outstanding Felony, narcotics and one outstanding Misdemeanor, interfering warrant for his arrest.

WITNESSES:

Sergeant Arthur C. Scott, [redacted]
Deputy Walid Tawdi, [redacted]



Deputy Tony Pachot, [redacted]



INJURIES:

On January 25, 2001 Doctor Golden of the Los Angeles County Coroner performed an Autopsy on Suspect Gustavo Roman. The Examination revealed that the suspect was shot

thirteen times on the upper torso and four times on the head. The suspect had numerous graze and shrapnel wounds on his face and head. The Doctor stated that the suspect died as a result of the gunshot wounds. The Doctors recovered fourteen projectiles from the body during the examination.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:

Refer to Exhibit A, pages 103 to110 found at the crime scene. The Autopsy report from the Los Angeles County Coroner recovered evidence pages 212 to 227, for detailed locations of pertinent evidence.

INVESTIGATORS' OBSERVATIONS:

The IAB investigators observed the location from the street and guided walk along the south wall of the parking lot of the location where the shooting occurred.

WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL:

JAIMES, Angel E.

Service weapon type:	Beretta, Model 92F, 9mm semiautomatic pistol
Baton/flashlight/sap:	not applicable
Type of ammunition used:	Winchester 9mm Luger SXT 147gr.
Date last qualified:	[redacted]
Date last trained with weapon:	
Number of rounds fired	11 rounds

VARGAS, Angelica P.

Service weapon type:	Beretta, Model 92F, 9mm semiautomatic pistol
Baton/flashlight/sap:	not applicable
Type of ammunition used:	Winchester 9mm Luger SXT 147gr.
Date last qualified:	[redacted]
Date last trained with weapon:	
Number of rounds fired	4 rounds

LAZO, Anthony N.

Service weapon type:	Beretta, Model 92F, 9mm semiautomatic pistol
Baton/flashlight/sap:	not applicable
Type of ammunition used:	Winchester 9mm Luger SXT 147gr.
Date last qualified:	[redacted]
Date last trained with weapon:	
Number of rounds fired	3 rounds

SAMPEDRO, Marcelo J.

Service weapon type: Beretta, Model 92F, 9mm semiautomatic pistol
Baton/flashlight/sap: not applicable
Type of ammunition used: Winchester 9mm Luger SXT 147gr.
Date last qualified: [redacted]
Date last trained with weapon:
Number of rounds fired 9 rounds

NORTH, James J.
Service weapon type: Beretta, Model 92F, 9mm semiautomatic pistol
Baton/flashlight/sap: not applicable
Type of ammunition used: Winchester 9mm Luger SXT 147gr.
Date last qualified: [redacted]
Date last trained with weapon:
Number of rounds fired 11 rounds

WEAPONS USED BY SUSPECT:

Vehicle was used as a weapon, 1999, Dodge Stratus, 4 door, White in color.

PROPERTY DAMAGE:

Refer to Exhibit A, pages 99 and 100, for detailed locations of property damage.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS/CHARGES FILED:

Investigator Kevin Lowe, [redacted]
Investigator Dan McElderry, [redacted]
Homicide Bureau

LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Bright daylight; the weather was clear, warm and dry.

INVOLVED EMPLOYEES' STATEMENTS:

Deputy Anthony N. Lazo told Homicide investigators that on January 22, 2001, he was assigned to Century Station Patrol Unit #213A, with Deputy James North, both deputies were wearing an LASD Class "A" uniform. They received a radio call to respond to a "Man with a Gun - shots Fired" call, but the original location to which they were dispatched was erroneous. Deputy Lazo explained that the original address given was on Avalon Boulevard, which was four to five minutes away from the actual address on Compton

Avenue.

As they proceeded to the proper location, Sergeant Scott, Unit #216S, broadcasted that he had arrived on scene and that he had the suspect, who was behaving in a bizarre manner, contained in a parking lot. The sergeant said something about a vehicle, but Lazo was unclear as to what had been said.

As they arrived on-scene, Deputy Lazo drove his patrol vehicle slightly north of the location, and pulled the vehicle across the southbound lanes of traffic to prevent motorists from being placed in a hazardous position. Deputy Lazo told his partner to remove the stun-bag gun from the trunk of their vehicle.

Deputy Lazo was asked why, given the fact that they were responding to a shots-fired call, he would choose to arm his partner with the stun-bag weapon. He explained that it would provide them option to resolve the situation with the minimal amount of force necessary.

Deputy Lazo said that he got out of his patrol vehicle, and entered the parking lot along the north side of Sergeant Scott's Chevrolet Tahoe. Deputy Lazo said he saw the sergeant and another deputy, wearing an LASD dark green polo shirt, (Deputy Sampedro) standing near the driver's side of the Tahoe. The suspect was standing outside a white automobile in the northwest portion of the parking lot; so Deputy Lazo took cover behind some parked cars on the north side of the lot.

Deputies were yelling at the suspect to put his hands up, but he was not complying with their instructions. Deputy Lazo and another deputy began yelling similar instructions, in Spanish without achieving any positive results. The suspect stared at the deputies, but did not seem focused on anything in particular. Deputy Lazo described the suspect as having ".......a thousand mile stare."

Sergeant Scott tossed a set of keys to Deputy Lazo, and instructed him to obtain the ARWIN from the rear of the Tahoe. The deputy opened the rear door, but was unable to locate the key needed to open the storage drawer containing the weapon.

As Deputy Lazo continued his efforts to find the correct key, he heard a loud crash, and the sound of an engine revving, and several, perhaps five to ten, gunshots. He indicated that the engin noise and gunshots occurred simultaneously, and followed the crash. He didn't know who was shooting, and he was afraid that the suspect may be shooting at the deputies.

Deputy Lazo looked through the back window of the Tahoe and out the windshield, but was unable to see Sergeant Scott. He explained that the sergeant had been standing at the front of the Tahoe, near a white station wagon, when he tossed the keys to him. When he couldn't see the sergeant, he became fearful for the sergeant's safety because he noticed that the white car was against the white station wagon, where it had not been before.

Deputy Lazo moved closer to the front passenger side of the station wagon. He looked into the white car, and saw the suspect leaning to his right, toward the passenger side of the

car. Deputy Lazo was concerned because he could be crushed by the on-coming vehicle.

Fearing for the sergeant's safety, Deputy Lazo fired between 2-4 rounds at the suspect with his 9mm Beretta. He explained that, when he made the decision to shoot, he felt that he had no other option. He went on to say that he was also concerned that, if the suspect has been successful in driving his car from the parking lot, there was a high likelihood that he wold harm innocent people.

Deputy James J. North told Homicide investigators that on January 22, 2001, he was assigned to Century Station Patrol Unit #213A, with Deputy Anthony Lazo; both deputies were wearing an LASD Class "A" uniform. He related that he also carried a back up weapon (Smith and Wesson #640 revolver) in an ankle holster on his left leg and a micro cassette recorder in his shirt pocket. He never utilized his back up weapon, and his micro cassette recorder was not activated during the incident. They received the assist on a 417 (Man with a gun) and 923 (Shots fired) call at the location. The call was updated, as they drove to the location, to say the suspect was possibly 5150 (Mentally disturbed) and armed with a hammer. When asked, North acknowledged that he and his partner were originally dispatched to an incorrect location, but eventually arrived at the correct location on Compton Avenue.

Deputy North went on to say that they arrived at the scene directly behind Deputies Vargas and James. Deputy Sampedro was already at the scene when the arrived. Deputy North said he armed himself with the Stun Gun, which he obtained from the trunk of his patrol car. When asked why he decided to arm himself with the Stun Gun instead of utilizing his 9MM, he responded that he had been trained to attempt to use less then lethal force if possible.

When he arrived he saw the suspect behind the Volvo, south of the station wagon and walking toward the Dodge which was parked in a parking stall. Deputy North ran in a westerly direction on the south side of the Sergeant's Tahoe towards the garage at the back of the parking lot. He remembers Deputy Vargas was somewhere near him. He was unsure of where the sergeant and the other deputies were.

He saw the suspect standing next to the Dodge. The suspect reached into the car. Deputy North was not able to see what the suspect did. North said at this point he was going to fire a stun round at the suspect, but at the same time he heard Sergeant Scott say , "Don't shoot." He said the suspect got into the Dodge and start the engine. As the suspect was backing up, Deputy North fired a stun bag at the driver's side window, in an attempt to shatter the window and get the suspect's attention. He was surprised when the stun bag bounced off of the window. He then fired two additional times at the driver's side window with the same results. By that time Deputy Sampedro was standing in the same area as he and Deputy Vargas. The suspect was driving the vehicle, in reverse, towards the three of them. Deputy North said that he and Deputy Vargas moved towards the north side of the station wagon. They were standing next to the passenger side door of the car.

Deputy North said Sergeant Scott was standing in the open driver's door of the station wagon. The suspect put the Dodge in drive and moved forward towards the station wagon

and the sergeant. As the Dodge rammed the station wagon Deputy North said he could no longer see Sergeant Scott. At the same time this was happening he dropped the Stun gun and removed his Beretta from his holster. He fired several rounds at the suspect inside of the Dodge. He did this at the same time his fellow deputies fired their weapons. He was not able to say if any specific deputy fired the first round. He said he thought that he had fired seven to eight himself. When asked to articulate why he fired his service weapon, he responded that he thought Sergeant Scott had been struck and run over by the suspect. When he stopped shooting, Deputy North saw Sergeant Scott exit from the passenger side of the station wagon. The sergeant had lied down on the front seat of the station wagon when the suspect rammed into the station wagon. Seeing that Sergeant Scott was not injured, he returned his attention to the suspect. The suspect was bleeding and his body was jerking. Orders were being given to the suspect but he was not following them. He just stared, in a manner Deputy North described as unfocused.

The suspect began driving forward again towards Deputy Sampedro. Deputy Sampedro was standing between the suspect vehicle and the Sergeant's Tahoe and Deputy North feared for Sampedro's safety. Deputy North also feared for the safety of the civilians who were standing in the street if the suspect were to exit the parking lot. He fired four to five more shots as the suspect moved forward and crashed into the Tahoe. The engine on the Dodge was still revving after it hit the Tahoe. His fellow deputies also fired their weapons. He was unsure who fired first.

Deputy North said he changed positions. He walked to the north side of the Tahoe, changed his nearly empty magazine for a full one . He then walked around to the driver's side of the Tahoe and saw that the incident was over.

Deputy Angel E. James told Homicide investigators that he was assigned to Century Station, Unit 217B, with his partner, Deputy Angelica Vargas, on January 22, 2001. Deputy James was wearing a class "A" uniform with his Sam Browne belt.

Deputy James said that he was at Century Station with his partner when he monitored a call of a "Man with a gun, shots fired", near the 12000 block of Avalon Blvd. He and his partner left the station and started driving toward the location when the call was undated with an address correction at a [redacted] located at [redacted] Compton Avenue, in the Firestone Park area. He and his partner proceeded toward the location and assumed the handle on the call. Deputy James monitored the radio and heard Sergeant Scott requesting assistance at the location regarding a possible mentally disturbed person in possession of a hammer, breaking windows. He arrived at the location with his partner and saw Sergeant Scott standing near the driver's side of a white station wagon that was parked in the parking lot facing west. The Sergeant was yelling at a male Hispanic (Suspect Gustavo, Roman) who was standing near a white Dodge parked in a stall facing a block wall to the north. The Sergeant continually yelled at the suspect to stop and raise his hands. The suspect was non-compliant and had a "Spaced" look in his eyes. The suspect ignored verbal commands from the Sergeant and James. Deputy James advised responding units, via his hand-held radio, that he needed stun bag shotguns and an "M26" (Laser sighted taser) at the location. These weapons are considered as "Less than lethal" and requested the weapons in case force was needed.

Deputy Jaimes said the suspect placed his hands on the roof of the Dodge for a moment and then dropped his hands and entered the car. The suspect appeared "Crazy, like a demon" as he ignored their orders and entered the car. The suspect started the Dodge and backed south out of the stall toward Deputies North and Vargas who were standing near some garages. Deputy Jaimes yelled to North and Vargas to shoot at the suspect with the stun bag shotguns in an effort to stop him from driving the car out of the lot and onto Compton Avenue. As the suspect backed up the Dodge in the direction of Deputies North and Vargas they, Deputy North fired three stun bag without result, then the truck hit the front of the white station wagon. Jaimes lost sight of Sergeant Scott and believed that Scott had been hit and was down from the impact. The suspect then drove the white Dodge forward crashing into the driver's side of the white station wagon where Jaimes last saw Sergeant Scott. Deputy Jaimes fired four to six rounds from his 9MM pistol at the suspect as the Dodge impacted the white station wagon. Deputy Jaimes said he believed that the suspect had run over the Sergeant when the collision occurred.

Deputy Jaimes told Deputies North and Vargas to come toward him and take cover. As the deputies moved, the suspect backed the white Dodge and revved the motor as he drove forward toward the Sergeant's Tahoe. Deputy Jaimes feared that the suspect was charging toward Deputy Sampedro and he fired his 9MM pistol four to six times at the suspect in an effort to disable the suspect and stop the vehicle. The suspect stopped the vehicle after impacting the Tahoe and began to back again, but stopped.

The suspect stopped moving within the car, but the vehicle engine continued to rev at high speed. Deputy Jaimes immediately broadcasted that deputies hade been involved in a shooting and requested Paramedics. The Deputies removed the suspect from the vehicle where he was treated by responding Paramedics and transported to the hospital.

Deputy Jaimes noted a large group of civilians on the sidewalk in front of the location and around the area of Compton Avenue at the time of this incident. Deputy Jaimes feared that the suspect would exit the parking lot and possibly injure those people if he was not stopped. Deputy Jaimes further stated that during this incident all of the deputies continued to yell at the suspect to stop and raise his hands, but the suspect ignored their orders and acted like a "Zombie".

Deputy Angelica P. Vargas told Homicide investigators that she was assigned to work to 217B with her partner, Deputy Angel Jaimes, at Century Station. Deputy Vargas was wearing a class "A" uniform with her Sam Browne belt. Deputy Vargas said she carried a "Back up" 38 caliber revolver in her left rear pant pocket. Vargas was wearing a bullet proof vest under her uniform shirt.

Deputy Vargas said that she was at Century Station when she monitored a call of a "Man with a gun, shots fired" call, on Avalon Blvd. She and her partner left the station to respond to the call. While en route, the location was updated to 60th Street and Compton Avenue, in Firestone Park. Deputy Vargas said while she monitored the radio she heard Sergeant Scott requesting immediate assistance at the location, regarding a "Violent person smashing windows with a hammer". She and her partner arrived at the location and she retrieved the stun bag shot gun from their assigned patrol car. She entered the parking lot

and saw Sergeant Scott standing near the driver's side of a white station wagon that was parked facing west in the location. Sergeant Scott was yelling at a male (Suspect Gustavo Roman) standing on the driver's side of a white Dodge parked in a stall facing north. The Sergeant was telling the suspect to calm down and put his hands up, but the suspect did not comply. She and Deputy North (in possession of a stun bag shot gun) took up positions to the rear of the white Dodge near some garages. Vargas and the other deputies at the scene were yelling at the suspect in Spanish and English to stop and raise his hands. The suspect ignored the orders as they were repeated over and over. The suspect entered the white Dodge and stared the car.

The suspect backed the car southbound toward her (Deputy Vargas) and Deputy North. She fired one round from the stun bag shot gun at the Dodge as the suspect backed toward her. Fearing that she was about to be hit by the suspect's vehicle, she moved quickly to the southeast and fired three more rounds from the stun bag shot gun at the Dodge. The suspect drove forward and impacted the driver's side of the white station wagon. Deputy Vargas ran eastbound in the parking lot away from the suspect . She ran to the passenger side of Sergeant Scott's Tahoe and placed the stun bag shot gun inside the Tahoe. She looked toward the station wagon and no longer saw Sergeant Scott. The suspect revved the engine of the Dodge and drove forward toward the Tahoe. She feared that the suspect was going to injure deputies at the scene if he continued and civilians outside of the parking lot if he passed. She pointed her 9mm Beretta at the suspect and fired several times at the suspect in an effort to stop the suspect and the vehicle. The suspect impacted the front of the Sergeant's Tahoe with the front bumper of the Dodge and the suspect slumped over in the seat. The suspect was extracted from the Dodge and handcuffed. Paramedics arrived at the location and treated the suspect for gunshot wounds.

Deputy Vargas noted several civilians in front of and around the location when she arrived at the scene. She feared that if the suspect had driven out of the lot, he may have seriously injured innocent pedestrians or persons driving on Compton Avenue. She further remembered deputies at the scene repeatedly ordering the suspect stop and raise his hands in Spanish and English.

Deputy Marcelo Sampedro told Homicide investigators that he was assigned to work as the Emergency Coordinator at Century Station on January 22, 2001. Deputy Sampedro was wearing a dark green Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Polo Shirt with shoulder patches and embroidered badge. He was also wearing his county issue Beretta 9mm pistol with one extra magazine. Sampedro was wearing a bullet proof vest under his polo shirt.

Deputy Sampedro said he was at a school in the Firestone area when he monitored a call of a "Man with a gun, shots fired" at 60th Street and Compton Avenue, in the Firestone Park area. He then heard Sergeant Scott requesting assistance at the location regarding a mentally ill person with a hammer, acting violently. Sampedro went to the location in his marked patrol unit and parked on Compton Avenue. He entered the parking lot and saw Sergeant Scott standing on the driver's side of a white station wagon facing west in the parking lot. The Sergeant was yelling toward a male (Suspect Gustavo Roman) in a white

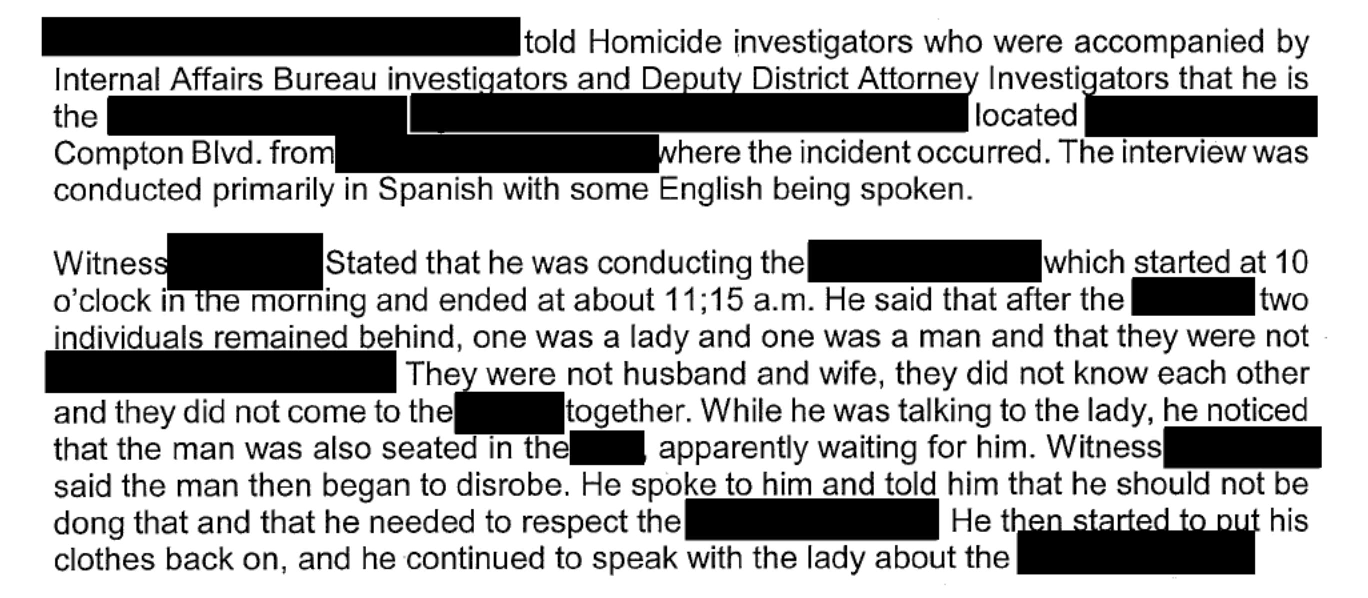
Dodge parked in a stall facing north, to raise his hands. Deputy Sampedro said he walked behind the Sergeant and saw the suspect moving around inside the Dodge. He and the Sergeant yelled at the suspect several times in Spanish and English to stop and raise his hands, but the suspect ignored their orders.

The suspect exited the Dodge and put his hands on the roof of the car. The suspect appeared to be mumbling to himself and looking around as the deputies attempted to speak to the suspect in both Spanish and English. The suspect dropped his hands from the roof and re-entered the Dodge. Deputy North approached the station wagon armed with a stun bag shotgun and he (Sampedro) covered North with his 9MM as they moved west in the lot toward the garages. The suspect yelled from (inabauble) driver's door of the Dodge as North began firing the stun bag rounds at the Dodge. The suspect revved the car engine and backed in a southwest direction out of the stall toward North and Sampedro. Sampedro ran in a southeast direction to avoid being struck by the suspect. The suspect then drove forward toward the driver's side of the white station wagon where Sampedro believed that the Sergeant has been struck and was on the ground. Sampedro fired his 9MM pistol five to six times at the suspect as the car stopped after colliding with the station wagon.

The suspect then revved the Dodge engine and backed slightly and then drove forward toward Deputy Sampedro and another unknown deputy. Sampedro ran in a southern direction to avoid being hit by the suspect and fired his 9MM pistol approximately three times at the suspect . The Dodge impacted the front of the Sergeant's Tahoe and stopped The suspect was extracted from the Dodge and handcuffed. Paramedics arrived at to the location and treated the suspect for gunshot wounds.

Deputy Sampedro could see several adult and child pedestrians on the street and sidewalk in front of the location during this incident. Sampedro feared that if the suspect had exited the parking lot in the Dodge he would have injured innocent persons on Compton Avenue.

WITNESSES' STATEMENTS:



[redacted] told Homicide investigators who were accompanied by Internal Affairs Bureau investigators and Deputy District Attorney Investigators that he is the [redacted] located [redacted] Compton Blvd. from [redacted] where the incident occurred. The interview was conducted primarily in Spanish with some English being spoken.

Witness [redacted] Stated that he was conducting the [redacted] which started at 10 o'clock in the morning and ended at about 11;15 a.m. He said that after the [redacted] two individuals remained behind, one was a lady and one was a man and that they were not [redacted] They were not husband and wife, they did not know each other and they did not come to the [redacted] together. While he was talking to the lady, he noticed that the man was also seated in the [redacted] apparently waiting for him. Witness [redacted] said the man then began to disrobe. He spoke to him and told him that he should not be dong that and that he needed to respect the [redacted] He then started to put his clothes back on, and he continued to speak with the lady about the [redacted]

Investigators then asked Witness [redacted] if the man said anything to him, he said "yes" that he needed to be purified and that this is why he was taking his clothes off. Witness [redacted] then said to him it was not necessary for him take his clothes off to be purified. Witness [redacted] then showed Investigators his [redacted] who were present at the [redacted]. The man apparently [redacted] however, he was not sure what name he signed.

Witness [redacted] said that the man was not agitated or upset, and he was calm. The man then began to cry. Witness [redacted] continued to talk with the lady, when he noticed that the man had gone up onto the [redacted] and he was calling him wanting to talk to him. Witness [redacted] then noticed that the man was standing totally naked. The lady then fled from the [redacted] in astonishment.

Witness [redacted] again spoke to the man and handed him his clothes and told him to put his clothes on. The man complied and began talking irrationally about his mother, his drug usage and his relationship with his wife and children. The man spoke as if he was a "troubled person." The man then went down and sat on the [redacted] retrieved his wallet and his belongings. He then walked back up into the [redacted] and began talking in an irrational manner.

Witness [redacted] said the man then walked out of the [redacted] down the stairs, waiting for the traffic signal and then walked [redacted] to the [redacted] parking lot. [redacted] walked out onto the entry porch of the [redacted] and watched the man.

Witness [redacted] said the man went up to the red car and was trying to get into the car by way of the open driver's window. The men from the [redacted] then came outside and confronted the suspect as he was putting (his) keys into the door of the red car. The man , suspect, became combative with the men from the [redacted] The men from the [redacted] then ran away from the suspect, who was armed with a hammer. He then broke out the window of the red car and was throwing things out from the interior of the car. The suspect threw the hammer at one of the men from the [redacted]

Mr. [redacted] said he saw the suspect enter a white car that was parked against the wall. The station wagon from the [redacted] then drove into the lot and stopped behind the white car blocking its path. The men from the [redacted] were around the white car. Witness [redacted] then called 911 to report the incident.

Shortly thereafter, the first sheriff's car arrived, entered the parking lot and parked behind the station wagon. The policemen got out of his car and was talking to the suspect and telling him to get out of the car. [redacted] saw the sergeant call for reinforcements and additional policemen arrived. Several officers were talking to the suspect and yelling orders at him in English and in Spanish to put his hands up and to get out of the car. The suspect did not obey the orders.

The suspect then drove the car backwards at the deputies and they shot at the car . Witness [redacted] could not tell if the officers were shooting at the person or at the tires of the car. [redacted] said that he believes that the officers fired their handguns. He could

not tell if the shotguns were fired. The car then came to a stop as it collided with the garage. The deputies were still yelling orders at the suspect to stop. The car then drove forward towards the deputies and the officers fired several more rounds at the vehicle.

Witness [redacted] said that the firemen arrived, as well as an ambulance. They treated the suspect and they took him away in the ambulance.

Mr. [redacted] said that during the initial confrontation between the suspect and the men from the [redacted] one of the men from the [redacted] came out with a handgun and fired one or two rounds into the air, in an effort to stop the suspect from breaking into the cars and from assaulting the men with the hammer. Mr. [redacted] said he does not know the man who fired the shots into the air, but he had seen him often at the [redacted] He also said that he has been a [redacted] at the [redacted] three months. He also said that there has never been any problems at the [redacted] or at the [redacted] during that time.

Witness [redacted] stated that in his opinion the officers were in a dangerous situation when the car was going backwards towards the officers and again when the car was driven forward towards the officers. Anderson said that the officers acted well and that they had no other alternatives.

[redacted] told Homicide investigators, who were accompanied by Internal Affairs Bureau investigators and a Deputy District Attorney, that he is employed by the [redacted] where the incident occurred. He is the owner's nephew and is in charge of vital statistics, which includes obtaining [redacted]

Mr. [redacted] said he was on the phone in his office at the [redacted] when another employee, [redacted] entered his office and said that someone was in the parking lot, messing with his car. He went outside and saw a male Hispanic (the suspect) at the driver's window of his car, a rust colored Oldsmobile. Mr. [redacted] said he had left the window partially open. He said to the suspect , " What the hell are you doing?" The suspect did not respond, other then to look at him. The suspect than used both hands to pull back and forth on the partially open window. He did this with such force that the window shattered.

Mr. [redacted] said he went back into the [redacted] and dialed 911. As he was dealing with the 911 operator, [redacted] came into the office and got "the business revolver" out of the desk drawer. [redacted] went outside to fire a warning shot and tell the suspect to get away from the car. While [redacted] was on the phone, he heard tow gunshots. He went outside, retrieved the revolver from [redacted] and returned it to he desk drawer. He again went outside and saw that the suspect had opened the hood of his Oldsmobile. The suspect had also retrieved a hammer, some needle nose pliers and another unknown tool from inside of his car. The suspect threw two of the tools at Mr. [redacted] He then started walking toward Mr. [redacted] threatening him with the hammer. Mr. [redacted] said he turned to run toward the garage at the back of the parking lot. The suspect threw the hammer at him.

The suspect then tried to open Mr. [redacted] Mercedes Benz and her Volvo, both of which were parked against the north wall of the parking lot. The doors to both of those cars were locked. [redacted] Dodge Stratus was also parked against the north wall. This vehicle

had just been washed by another [redacted] employee, [redacted] Mr. [redacted] had the keys to the vehicle, which he left unlocked.

The suspect entered the Dodge and appeared to be tampering with the ignition. The suspect also opened the door to a Chevrolet Camaro which was parked next to the Dodge. It appeared as if he, the suspect, retrieved something, possibly tools, out of the Camaro. The suspect returned to the Dodge and again tampered with ignition. At that time another [redacted] employee, Mr. [redacted] arrived in a white station wagon. Mr. [redacted] parked the station wagon partially behind the Dodge Stratus. Mr. [redacted] advised Mr. [redacted] about what had transpired. Mr. [redacted] retrieved the hammer the had suspect previously thrown. Mr. [redacted] retrieved a short handled shovel from the garage. They attempted to contain the suspect until the authorities arrived.

Mr. [redacted] said the suspect tried to get out of the car. He moved into the passenger seat and tried to kick the window out of the drivers' door. When that was unsuccessful, the suspect used a wrench to break out the window of the front passenger door. Mr. [redacted] stood outside of the driver's door with the hammer. Mr. [redacted] stood outside of the passenger door with the shovel. The suspect opened the driver's door and began kicking at Mr. [redacted] with his feet. The suspect also had something in his hands that he was swinging at Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] said he went to the driver's side to help Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] swung at the suspect with his hammer and Mr. [redacted] swung at the suspect with his shovel. They did this to keep the suspect in the car. The suspect closed and locked the car door from the inside. He then began tampering with the ignition. Mr. [redacted] gave the keys to Mr. [redacted] unlocked the car door, trying to get the suspect out. He left the keys in the door lock. Mr. [redacted] struggled with the suspect at the driver's door. Mr. [redacted] was knocked to the ground. Mr. [redacted] went to help [redacted] on the driver's door. Mr. [redacted] was knocked to the ground. Mr. [redacted] went to help [redacted] on the drivers' side. By that time he had broken his first shovel and had obtained another shovel from the garage. They both struggled with the suspect for a while longer. The suspect then closed the car door. That is when the first patrol unit arrived.

Mr. [redacted] said the first deputy to arrive was a sergeant. The sergeant told [redacted] to drop the hammer and move over to the wall of the [redacted] He then heard the sergeant tell the suspect to get out of the car. A short time later additional units arrived. First a single deputy arrived, then two mor patrol cars arrived , each with two deputies.

Mr. [redacted] said he entered the [redacted] and viewed what transpired from an office window. He heard the sergeant say something similar to, "Get the bean bag shotgun." He saw the deputies surround the suspect, who was still in the vehicle. He saw one of the deputies had a shotgun. He heard the sergeant order the suspect out of the car. At first the suspect did not comply. When the suspect did comply, he exited the car and placed his hands on the window of the driver's door. The suspect only remained outside of the car for a short time. Mr. [redacted] believes the suspect saw the car keys, which had been left in the door lock, because he grabbed the keys and got back into the car. A few moments later the suspect backed the car out of the parking space.

Mr. [redacted] heard a gunshot and decided to get on the floor. He heard a few more shots

while he was on the floor. He then looked out of the window again. He heard one of the deputies yell something at the suspect. He did not remember what the deputies said. He saw the suspect put the car in drive. The suspect drove toward the officers and that's when they fired. He said that when the suspect started driving froward, the sergeant was behind the car and the deputies were in front of the car. Mr. [redacted] again decided to get on the floor again. He did not see which deputies fired, nor did he see what happened after that.

Mr. [redacted] described the first shots that he heard as that of shotgun blasts. He assumed they were from the bean bag shotgun. They were of louder volume that the second burst of shots.

Mr. [redacted] said he did not hear the suspect utter any words during the entire incident. He described the suspect as acting as if he were under the influence of PCP. He said the suspect was husky, weighing more then 220 pounds. The suspect was wearing a grey & black sweater with the letters "Boss" on the back as well as a pair of jeans. The suspect seemed to be intent on getting one of the cars out of the parking lot. Mr. [redacted] said that if the deputies had not fired at the suspect, he would have hurt them.

It should be noted that Mr. [redacted] had abrasions on the back of both lower arms. He did not remember how he received the injuries, but thought it might have been when the suspect shattered the window of the Stratus. Mr. [redacted] said that during the incident he was scared and nervous. He did not know if the suspect had a gun or a knife.

Mr. [redacted] said that a representative from the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office, [redacted] arrived on the scene sometime during the alteration. His, Mr. [redacted] vehicle, a white Chevrolet Caprice, remained parked in the lot. He was no longer at the scene when we, investigators, arrived.

[redacted] was interviewed at approximately 1645 hours. Mr. [redacted] works as a janitor at the [redacted]

Mr. [redacted] said that he was outside and had just finished washing the white Dodge Stratus for another employee ([redacted]). At about 9:30 or 10:00 in the morning a man came walking [redacted] from the [redacted] He thought the man was coming to work on [redacted] car. Then he saw the man (from hereon referred to as the suspect) fiddling with the window of [redacted] car. He heard the window shatter. When Mr. [redacted] saw that, he panicked. The suspect came after him with a hammer. The suspect tried to throw the hammer at him, but ended up throwing it at [redacted] instead. Mr. [redacted] said he still had the keys to the Stratus. He took the keys and ran north on Compton to the Laundromat. He tried to call 911, but was unable to get through. He returned to the parking lot.

When Mr. [redacted] returned to the parking lot, he saw that one of the other employees, Mr. [redacted] had arrived inn a station wagon. He saw [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] try to contain the suspect inside the car. Mr. [redacted] asked him for the keys to the stratus. He threw the keys to Mr. [redacted] then ran out to the street to flag down the police. He saw the sergeant arrive and flagged him down. He saw the sergeant ask for backup over his radio. He heard the

sergeant talking to the suspect. He could not remember what the sergeant said.

Mr. [redacted] retreated into the [redacted] at the direction of the sergeant. He stayed in the hallway of the building with Ms. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] He did not see what happened after that. He did not see the other deputies arrive. He did not hear what was said by any of the deputies, or the suspect. He did hear what he described as "a lot" of gunshots. He thought the shots he heard were from a bean bags gun. He thought there were 4 or 5 shots total.

[redacted] told Homicide investigators, who were accompanied by Internal Affairs Bureau investigators and a Deputy District Attorney, that she is the manager for the [redacted] and is employed by the [redacted] where the incident occurred.

Ms. [redacted] said she was in her office talking on the telephone and listening to music when the incident started. She found out what was going on when [redacted] came in and told her someone was breaking into cars in the parking lot. She went to the door and looked outside. She saw a man inside of [redacted] white Dodge Stratus. The suspect was throwing items out of the car onto the ground. [redacted] was on the phone with the 911 Operator, [redacted] handed her the phone and asked her to talk to the operator so he could go outside.

Ms. [redacted] looked outside while she was still on the telephone with the 911 Operator. She saw the suspect swinging a hammer at Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] took the hammer away from the suspect. The suspect then locked himself in the car. [redacted] and [redacted] unlocked the door with car keys they obtained from Mr. [redacted] She was unsure of the sequence of the events, but she said the suspect kicked out the passenger window of the white Dodge. She relayed all of this information to the 911 Operator.

She saw the sergeant arrive in an SUV. Then she heard a helicopter. She told the operator that one sergeant would not be enough to handle the violent suspect. She was told that more patrol cars were on the way. She saw the sergeant exit his car and remove his gun from it's holster. She stepped to the outside door to make sure the sergeant knew that Mr. [redacted] was not the suspect.

The sergeant must have ordered the suspect out of the car because she heard the suspect yell, "No, no." She was surprised at that because she had not heard him utter a word before that. She did not hear the suspect say anything else. She saw other deputes arrive. She saw the deputies with handguns and shotguns. At that point she moved back into the office. She watched through the office window. She saw the suspect get out of the car and place his hands on the roof of the car. She remembered seeing at least one female deputy move to the west of the Dodge. The suspect then got back into the car. She saw the reverse lights on the back of the Dodge light up. She wondered how the suspect got the car keys. She was afraid he would back the car into the office she was in. She moved into the hallway with Mr. [redacted]

While they were in the hallway, she heard about 6 to 8 shots. She thought the incident was over so she looked out to see what was happening. She saw the white Dodge, with the

suspect driving, move forward toward two deputies who were standing in front of the car. She heard more gunshots, then saw the car roll to a stop against the sergeant's SUV. She mentioned that the first set of shots she heard sounded different than the second set. She was unsure how many shots she heard during the second volley.

Ms. [redacted] said that sometime during the incident she saw one of the deputies get into her white station wagon and move it. She did not know why he did that. She was not even sure if he did this before or after ths shooting.

Ms. [redacted] described that suspect as being high on something. He was violent and acted as if he were angry. She thought he might be mentally ill or high on PCP. It appeared as if he did not feel anything.

Ms. [redacted] said she was terrified during the incident. She feared the suspect would try to come into her building.

Sergeant Arthur Scott, [redacted] told Homicide Investigators along with Internal Affairs Investigators that on January 22, 2001, he was assigned to work unit 216S, at Century Station. Sergeant Scott was dressed in full duty Class "A" uniform with all his required equipment.

Sergeant Scott said that he monitored a call of a "Man with a gun, shots fired" at the 12600 block of Avalon Blvd. As Century Station units responded, the location was corrected as [redacted] Compton Ave. Scott responded to the location northbound on Compton Ave. and was flagged down by a male black as he reached 60th Street. The male black stated that someone was being robbed and pointed to the parking lot of the location. Scott looked into the parking lot and saw a male black standing on the driver's side of a white Dodge parked in a stall facing north. The male black was wearing dress clothes with a tie and holding a hammer in an "Assaultive " manner. Scott said he drove into the location and requested immediate assistance via his car radio. He exited his marked Sheriff's vehicle, (Chevrolet Tahoe) drew his duty weapon, and took cover on the driver's side of a white station wagon parked in the lot facing west, directly in front of his Tahoe. Scott said he ordered the male black to drop the hammer and walk over to the station wagon, the male complied. The male alerted Scott to a male Hispanic (Suspect Roman) inside the Dodge who was acting hysterically and throwing objects out of the shattered passenger side window. The male black advised Scott that he was an employee at the [redacted] (Location) and that he was the owner of the white Dodge. Scott said he told the male black to go inside the [redacted] and directed his attention to the suspect.

Sergeant Scott said he believed that the suspect was under the influence of Phencyclidine (PCP) or that he was violently mentally ill. He requested that deputies responded to the location bring stun bag shotguns and an "M26" (Laser sighted taser), via his portable Sheriff's radio. Scott ordered the suspect to get out of the car with his hands up, but the suspect did not comply. The suspect was moving around inside the car and continually ignored Scott's orders. The suspect eventually exited the driver's door and after several orders placed his hands on the roof of the Dodge. Assisting deputes arrived and Scott threw his car keys to Deputy Lazo and advised Lazo to get the AR-15 rifle out of the rear

of the Sergeant's car. Scott said he saw that the other deputies as the scene were armed with stun bag shotguns and duty pistols and he holstered is duty weapon and assumed the role of supervisor. The suspect entered the Dodge again and started the motor. Scott said he yelled to the deputies not to shoot and Scott entered the white station with the intention of driving it forward and blocking the Dodge in the parking stall. Scott said as he prepared to pull forward, the suspect backed the Dodge out of the stall in a southwest direction toward some garages. The suspect stopped the Dodge and drove forward toward the driver's side of the statio wagon. Scott immediately leaned to his left and laid down on the seat in attempt to shield himself from the impact of the Dodge striking the station wagon. The Dodge impacted the station wagon and Scott heard several "Controlled " Shots being fired. Scott stayed on the seat until the shots stopped.

Sergeant Scott looked up and saw the Dodge stopped where it had impacted the station wagon. Scott saw bullet holes in the windshield and saw that the suspect was bleeding. He crawled across the seat of the station wagon and exited the car via the passenger door. He stayed low on the passenger side of the station wagon and told the deputies to hold their fire. The suspect accelerated the Dodge and drove forward toward the assisting deputies. Scott heard several more shots fired as the suspect drove east and impacted the front of the Tahoe. The suspect was removed from the Dodge and placed on the ground where he was treated by responded Paramedics and transported to the hospital.

Sergeant Scott said that during the incident he feared that the suspect would drive out of the lot and become a public safely hazard. He also stated that the suspect was very uncooperative and that the suspect ignored repeated orders to stop and comply.

[redacted]s a Investigator for the Los Angeles County, Department of Coroner. He was interviewed by Homicide deputies about the incident. Mr. [redacted] said he saw the Deputy (Sgt. Scott) exit his vehicle and order the male black, holding a hammer to drop the hammer and move away from the white car. The male black complied. [redacted] said the male black holding shovel moved away without any verbal orders.

Deputy [redacted] was inside the [redacted] when he heard Sgt. Scott order the male black in the white vehicle to get out of the vehicle several times. [redacted] watched the male black exit the vehicle and walk to the back of the white vehicle. [redacted] said another patrol vehicle arrived at the location and a deputy exited the vehicle. The deputy took a position at the garage to the west of the parking lot. During this time, (Suspect Roman) went back into the vehicle, in the driver's seat, and closed the driver's door.

[redacted] said he walked around his vehicle and stood on the passenger side of his vehicle near the front. He said several other deputies arrived during that time, and were standing in the parking lot behind the suspect's vehicle.

All of the deputies were ordering the suspect to get out of the vehicle when suddenly the suspect vehicle moved backwards. [redacted] said he thinks the suspect's vehicle struck the white chevy wagon. The suspect's vehicle stopped (facing north/east direction). The suspect started moving towards a deputy when he heard several gun shots ring out (Approximately 8-10).

[redacted] said the suspect vehicle stopped, and several deputies yelled for the suspect to exit the vehicle. [redacted] said the suspect then started moving the vehicle again, when several more gunshots rang out. The suspect vehicle ran into the Tahoe patrol vehicle and stopped (Sgt. Scott's vehicle).

[redacted] said that there was a waiting period of about 2 minutes, when deputies approached the suspect vehicle, opened the driver's door and pulled the suspect out of the vehicle and onto the ground. [redacted] said paramedics then arrived and took the suspect away.

Deputy Walid Tawdi, [redacted] told Homicide investigators, who were accompanied by Internal Affairs Bureau investigators, that he and his partner, Deputy Tony Pachot, were working Air-7 (Sheriff's helicopter unit) in the Los Angeles County area. Deputy Tawdi was assigned as an observer and Pachot was assigned as the pilot. Tawdi monitored an assistance request on Compton Avenue by 216S and he and his partner responded to the location.

Deputy Tawdi said while at the location he observed the Sergeant in a parking lot of the location and it appeared as if he was talking to a male (Suspect Roman) standing on the driver's side of a white car parked facing north. Responding ground units arrived and the suspect entered the white car. The suspect drove the car backwards and struck the front of a station wagon parked in the lot facing west. The impact pushed the station wagon back from it's parking position. Tawdi could see deputies around the white car, but did not see any of them being struck by the suspect. The suspect maneuvered the white car eastbound and started driving forward toward Compton Avenue. Tawdi saw the suspect accelerate the white car and the front of the white car struck the front of the Sergeant's Tahoe. Prior to the impact, Tawdi saw the windshield of the white car pelted with bullets shattering the glass.

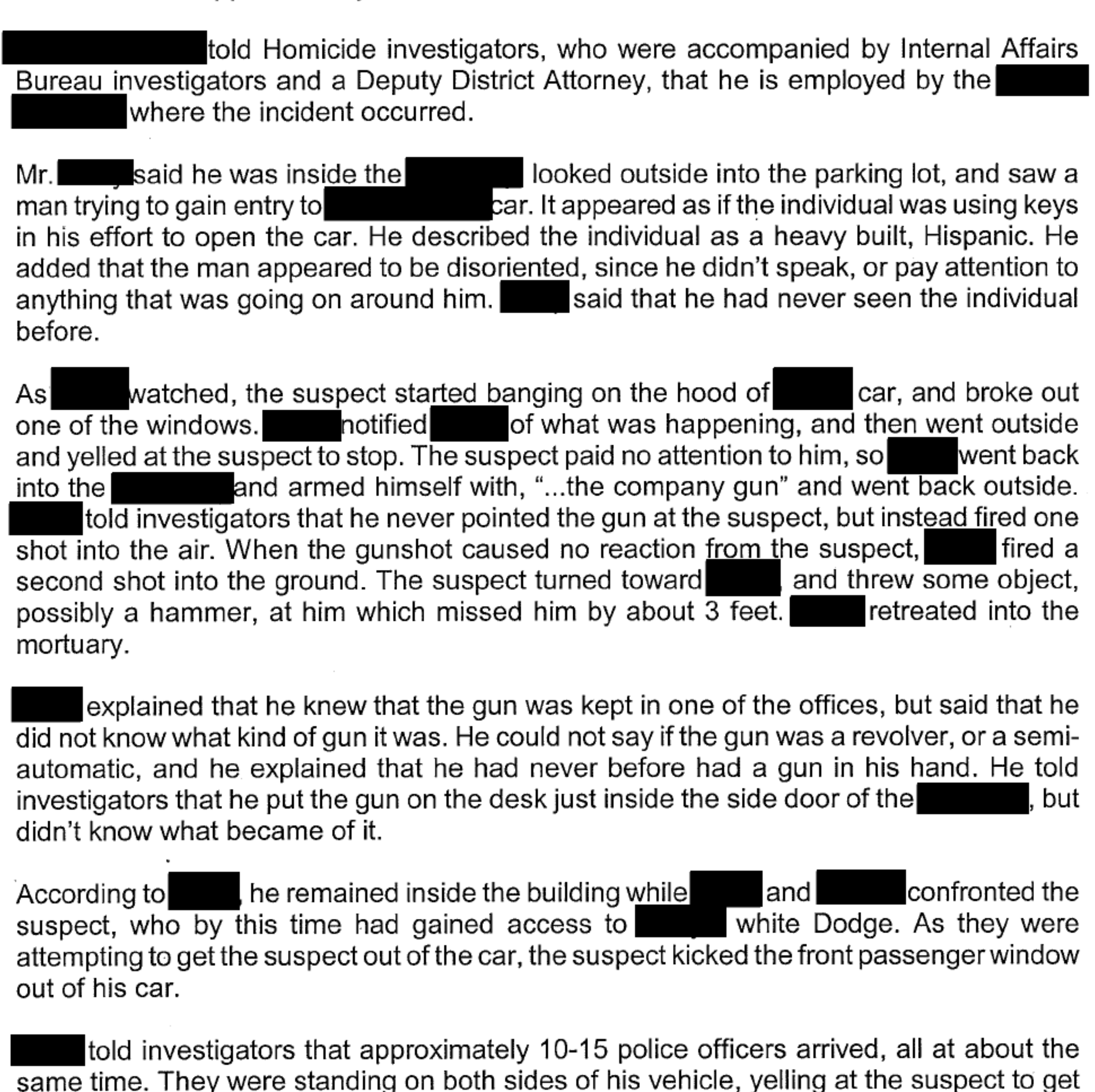
Deputy Tawdi stated that he focused his attention on the white car and was not paying attention to the deputies positioning themselves in the lot. Tawdi observed approximately ten pedestrians on the west sidewalk in front of the location during this incident.

Deputy Tony Pachot, [redacted] told Homicide investigators, who were accompanied by Internal Affairs Bureau investigators, that he and his partner, Deputy Walid Tawdi, were working Air-7 (Sheriff's helicopter unit) in the Los Angeles County area. Deputy Pachot was assigned as an pilot and Pachot was assigned as the observer. Tawdi monitored an assistance request on Compton Avenue by 216S and he and his partner responded to the location.

Deputy Pachot said he observed the Sergeant in the parking lot and a male (Suspect Roman) exiting a white car in the northwest corner of the lot. The suspect was moving his hands and arms around and gesturing at the Sergeant. Assisting ground units arrived at the location and responded on foot inside on the parking lot. Pachot looked down and no longer saw the suspect standing in the parking lot. He then saw a white car backing out of a stall and observed bullets impacting the front windshield of the white car as it drove east bound toward Compton Avenue. The white Dodge car slowed momentarily then collided into the front of the Sergeant's Tahoe. The collision caused the Tahoe to move backwards

from its parked position.

Pachot said he remembers one of the deputies on foot approximately twenty feet to the rear of the suspect's vehicle prior to the white car backing. He also saw several deputies around the white station wagon that was parked in the lot facing west . Pachot recalled 15-20 pedestrians on the west sidewalk in front of the location during this incident and numerous pedestrians responding after the shooting . Pachot orbited the location during this incident at approximately four hundred feet.



[redacted] told Homicide investigators, who were accompanied by Internal Affairs Bureau investigators and a Deputy District Attorney, that he is employed by the [redacted] where the incident occurred.

Mr. [redacted] said he was inside the [redacted] looked outside into the parking lot, and saw a man trying to gain entry to [redacted] car. It appeared as if the individual was using keys in his effort to open the car. He described the individual as a heavy built, Hispanic. He added that the man appeared to be disoriented, since he didn't speak, or pay attention to anything that was going on around him. [redacted] said that he had never seen the individual before.

As [redacted] watched, the suspect started banging on the hood of [redacted] car, and broke out one of the windows. [redacted] notified [redacted] of what was happening, and then went outside and yelled at the suspect to stop. The suspect paid no attention to him, so [redacted] went back into the [redacted] and armed himself with, "...the company gun" and went back outside. [redacted] told investigators that he never pointed the gun at the suspect, but instead fired one shot into the air. When the gunshot caused no reaction from the suspect, [redacted] fired a second shot into the ground. The suspect turned toward [redacted] and threw some object, possibly a hammer, at him which missed him by about 3 feet. [redacted] retreated into the mortuary.

[redacted] explained that he knew that the gun was kept in one of the offices, but said that he did not know what kind of gun it was. He could not say if the gun was a revolver, or a semi-automatic, and he explained that he had never before had a gun in his hand. He told investigators that he put the gun on the desk just inside the side door of the [redacted], but didn't know what became of it.

According to [redacted], he remained inside the building while [redacted] and [redacted] confronted the suspect, who by this time had gained access to [redacted] white Dodge. As they were attempting to get the suspect out of the car, the suspect kicked the front passenger window out of his car.

[redacted] told investigators that approximately 10-15 police officers arrived, all at about the same time. They were standing on both sides of his vehicle, yelling at the suspect to get out of the car, when it suddenly started to back-up. The officers moved to the front of the vehicle and continued to yell at the suspect to stop and get out of the vehicle. As the car continued in reverse, it struck the side of the white station wagon. [redacted] said the station wagon backed-up at a slow rate of speed.

[redacted] car, driven by the suspect, suddenly lurched forward 4-5 feet, directly at the officers, who were in danger of being hit by the car. He heard 4-5 shots fired, but did not see who fired them, nor did he see what effect they had. He ducked, and saw little else, until the shooing stopped.

[redacted] told Homicide investigators, who were accompanied by Internal Affairs Bureau investigators and Deputy District Attorney, that he is employed by the [redacted] where the incident occurred.

Mr. [redacted] said about 12:00pm, or perhaps a little later, he returned to the [redacted] driving a white station wagon. As he drove into the parking lot his attention was drawn to a man, who he described as Spanish, 175-200 lbs. In his late 20's, wearing a grey short sleeve shirt, sitting in a white car. Mr. [redacted] saw [redacted] his employer standing closely adjacent to the passenger side of that vehicle.

The suspect was sitting in the front passenger seat of the white vehicle; and was striking the windows of the vehicle with a pair of pliers, and was kicking the windows as well. The suspect had already shattered the passenger window, from the inside, and was striking out at [redacted] with the pliers. Mr. [redacted] had to move away to avoid being struck. Mr. [redacted] was using, what appeared to be a long stick to defend himself.

Mr. [redacted] directed [redacted] to assist him in removing the suspect from the vehicle. Mr. [redacted] moved around to the driver's side and attempted to open the door, but found it locked. Mr. [redacted] went on to say that the vehicle had been recently washed by another employee, who apparently left it unlocked. That employee happened along at about that time, and tossed the keys to Mr. [redacted] who in turn tossed them to [redacted]

Mr. [redacted] unlocked the door, and opened it, and was immediately confronted by the suspect who was striking out at Mr. [redacted] with a hammer he was wielding in his right hand. The suspect held a pair of pliers in his left hand, but did not attempt to strike [redacted] with that tool. [redacted] reached into the car in an attempt to gain control of the hammer, but was struck on his left hand. [redacted] displayed an untreated laceration to the top of the middle finger of his left hand. The suspect continued to swing the hammer, up-and-down, missing [redacted] but striking himself on the thighs repeatedly . The suspect never uttered a singled word, nor did he show any reaction to the pain of the hammer blows he was inflicting upon himself. [redacted] said that because the suspect showed no reaction to the pain, that something must be wrong with him.

Mr. [redacted] was able to wrestle the hammer from the suspect. As Mr. [redacted] was attempting to remove the suspect from the car, the suspect turned sideways in the seat, and kicked-out with both feet, striking [redacted] and knocking him to the ground. Mr. [redacted] showed that the left knee of his pants was torn and that the knee was still bloody and swollen.

Mr. [redacted] said he was standing next to the car, still containing the suspect, when the first Sheriff's unit arrived. The officer was alone, and he pointed his gun at Mr. [redacted] ordering

him to drop the hammer. [redacted] told the officer that he was not the problem and pointed out the suspect who was in the car. The officer again ordered him to drop the hammer, and when he complied, told him to move out of the way.

The officer, speaking both in English and Spanish, repeatedly ordered the suspect to get out of the car. [redacted] heard the suspect respond, "No! No!" That was the only words that the suspect spoke during the entire incident.

Eventually, the suspect did get out of the car, and stood with one hand on the roof of the car, and the other hand on the open door. After 1-2 minutes, the suspect realized that the keys to the car were hanging in the door lock. He took the keys, got into the car, and started the engine. About a minute later, the suspect began to back the car up at a normal rate of speed. Mr. [redacted] said he heard 3-4 gunshots, which he thought were beanbags being fired.

Mr. [redacted] was unsure of which officer or officers fired the first shot, but he mentioned seeing what he believed to be a female officer holding a shotgun, and thought that she may have been the first to shoot. He went on to say that the female officer was positioned on the far side of the suspect's vehicle from where he stood. He did not see where the beanbags impacted.

After the sounds of the initial gunshots, the suspect sat still for a moment, before revving the engine, and driving forward toward the officers who were positioned between him and the street. [redacted] said that the suspect drove at a high rate of speed, fast enough to hear the officers if he hit one of them. He recalls that the officers continued to order the suspect to get out of the car, even as they moved out of the path of the on-coming vehicle. He, Mr. [redacted] went on to say that the officers would have been hit by the car, had they not gotten out of the way.

Mr. [redacted] told investigators that as the suspect drove forward, he struck the white station wagon and perhaps another vehicle as well. He heard the sound of several gunshots, as the vehicle was moving forward, but was not in a position to see which officers were shooting.

The car came to a stop, very close to the front of the first police vehicle (Sergeant Scott's Tahoe). The suspect was lying over to one side. An officer reached into the car and turned off the engine. At the conclusion of the interview with Mr. [redacted], he said, in retrospect, the suspect acted like he was on drugs, judging by his behavior.

[redacted] told Homicide investigators, who were accompanied by Internal Affairs Bureau investigators, and Deputy District Attorney that she is employed as a family counselor at [redacted] where the incident occurred.

[redacted] said that, at about 11:00am, or a little later, she became aware that a man was going from car-to-car in the [redacted] parking lot, attempting to gain entry to them. She described the man's demeanor as angry. The suspect attempted to enter several of the vehicles, including a Mercedes-Benz, and a Volvo, that she owns. He, the suspect, climbed

on top of more than one car, and appeared to damage them.

As [redacted] watched, the suspect entered a white car that belonged to [redacted] one of her co-workers. She went on to say that once inside the car, the suspect went berserk. She explained that he was hitting the inside of the car, including the windows, wildly and was throwing items out of the car.

[redacted] was asked if, in her opinion, the suspect represented a threat to safety. She replied that he did, especially to the police at the end of the incident. One of the employees called 911, but, it seemed as if, "...it took forever" for the police to arrive.

As she watched from inside the [redacted] the suspect started the car and began to back-up, from the parking stall against the wall, to about the mid-point of the parking lot. She described the speed of the vehicle as, "a pretty good pace." As the vehicle backed-up, then stopped, she heard the sound of gunshots, but could not see who was shooting. The suspect just sat there for a moment. He was told to get out of the car by the police, but he told them "No."

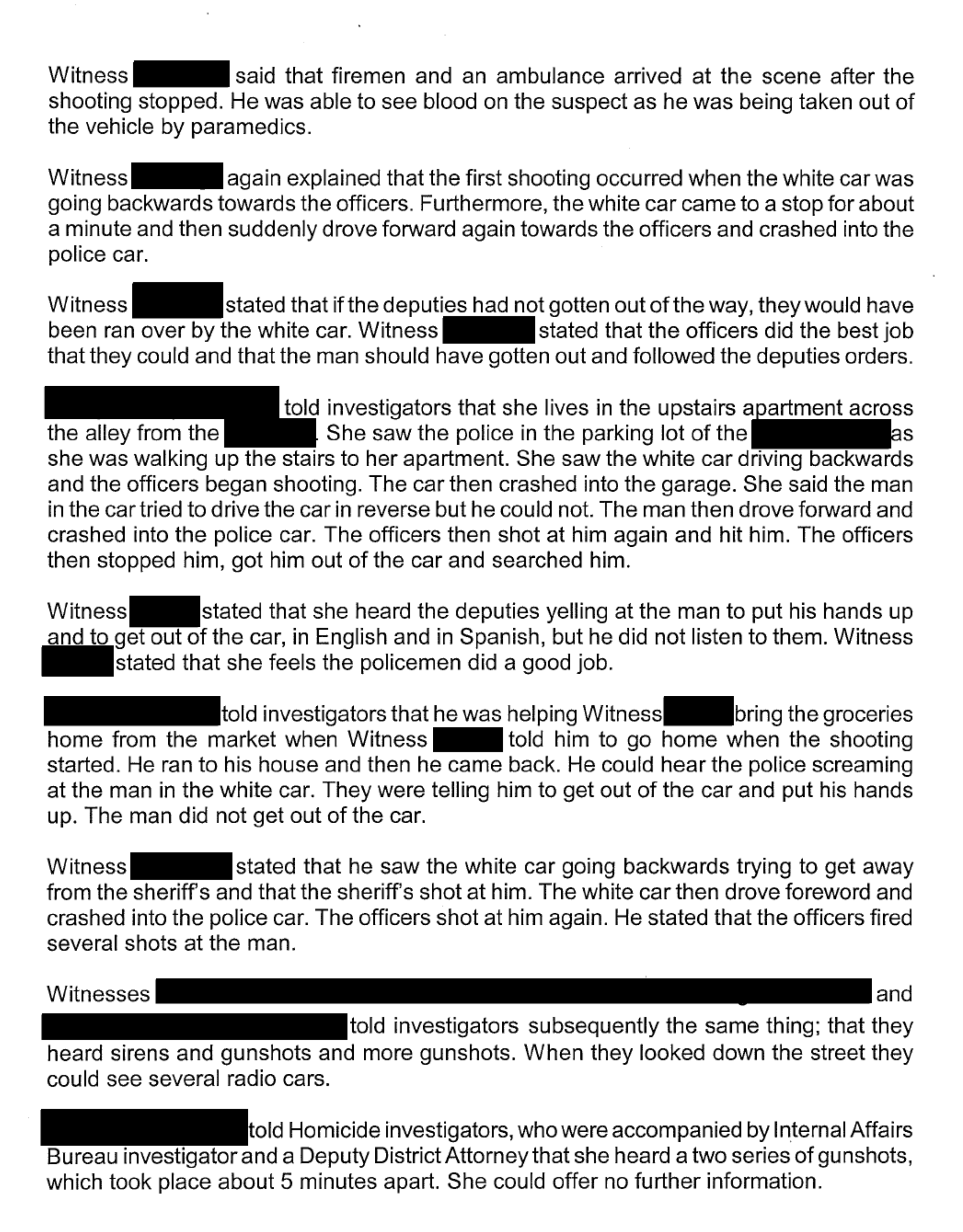
The suspect suddenly accelerated forward, striking a white station wagon. She went on to say that he actually accelerated forward on two separate occasions, and she believed that he was trying to get out of the parking lot to the street.

[redacted] described the speed of the suspect's vehicle, as he accelerated forward, as "get-away speed." She described the suspect's actions as "stupid" and said that he would have hit the officers with his vehicle, if they had not shot him or stopped him.

[redacted] said that she wasn't able to hear all that was being said by the officers, and was unable to tell if they were giving the suspect orders both in English and Spanish but added that she would have done nothing differently, had she been in the officers' shoes.

[redacted] told Homicide investigators, who were accompanied by Internal Affairs Bureau investigators and Deputy District Attorney Investigators, that he was refurbishing the home at the northeast corner of 60th Street and Compton Avenue. He said his attention was drawn across the street to the parking lot of the [redacted] by the sirens of the arriving police cars. He went outside and he saw about five of six police cars arrive. The officers then went to the rear of the parking lot towards a white car. He could hear the officers yelling orders at the man inside the car to come out of the car, which he did. The man appeared to be calm.

[redacted] said the man (suspect) suddenly re-entered the white car. The officers were pointing their guns at him and yelling orders at him. The man put the car in reverse and drove the car backwards. The officers jumped out of the way. The officers then fired at the vehicle. The car came to a stop. The officers yelled at him to stop and get out of the car. The man did not appear to be injured at that time. He was not obeying the officers orders, and he was non-responsive. The car then came froward towards the officer again and crashed into the front of the police car, at which time the officers fired at the car.



Witness [redacted] said that firemen and an ambulance arrived at the scene after the shooting stopped. He was able to see blood on the suspect as he was being taken out of the vehicle by paramedics.

Witness [redacted] again explained that the first shooting occurred when the white car was going backwards towards the officers. Furthermore, the white car came to a stop for about a minute and then suddenly drove forward again towards the officers and crashed into the police car.

Witness [redacted] stated that if the deputies had not gotten out of the way, they would have been ran over by the white car. Witness [redacted] stated that the officers did the best job that they could and that the man should have gotten out and followed the deputies orders.

[redacted] told investigators that she lives in the upstairs apartment across the alley from the [redacted]. She saw the police in the parking lot of the [redacted] as she was walking up the stairs to her apartment. She saw the white car driving backwards and the officers began shooting. The car then crashed into the garage. She said the man in the car tried to drive the car in reverse but he could not. The man then drove forward and crashed into the police car. The officers then shot at him again and hit him. The officers then stopped him, got him out of the car and searched him.

Witness [redacted] stated that she heard the deputies yelling at the man to put his hands up and to get out of the car, in English and in Spanish, but he did not listen to them. Witness [redacted] stated that she feels the policemen did a good job.

[redacted] told investigators that he was helping Witness [redacted] bring the groceries home from the market when Witness [redacted] told him to go home when the shooting started. He ran to his house and then he came back. He could hear the police screaming at the man in the white car. They were telling him to get out of the car and put his hands up. The man did not get out of the car.

Witness [redacted] stated that he saw the white car going backwards trying to get away from the sheriff's and that the sheriff's shot at him. The white car then drove foreword and crashed into the police car. The officers shot at him again. He stated that the officers fired several shots at the man.

Witnesses [redacted] and [redacted] told investigators subsequently the same thing; that they heard sirens and gunshots and more gunshots. When they looked down the street they could see several radio cars.

[redacted] told Homicide investigators, who were accompanied by Internal Affairs Bureau investigator and a Deputy District Attorney that she heard a two series of gunshots, which took place about 5 minutes apart. She could offer no further information.

SUSPECT'S STATEMENT:

Deceased

MISCELLANEOUS SECTION:

[redacted] is the [redacted] of the suspect and was interviewed by Homicide investigators. Ms. [redacted] said the Suspect Roman arrived at her house at [redacted] in the city of Los Angeles on January 19, 2001. The suspect explained to her that he needed a place to stay and that he could not go back to the Fontana area. He said that bad people in Fontana wanted to hurt hm. During the weekend the suspect acted very strange. He was seen mumbling to himself while laying down as if he was "Jesus on the Crucfix". He said that a man approached him and told him not to trust anyone and that people were going to do harm to him. The man disappeared and the suspect believed that the man was "God". The suspect continually talked about the devil and witchcraft and that he needed to be "Cleansed".

District Attorney's Conclusion:

"The Sheriff's deputies who fired upon Mr. Roman acted in justified defense of themselves and others. Mr. Roman repeatedly assaulted civilians and behaved in an irrational manner. He refused orders to step from the car he was in. Mr. Roman then began driving the car in an enclosed area and in the direction of deputies. When Mr. Roman put the white Dodge in reverse, deputies fired less-lethal rounds in an unsuccessful attempt to distract him. Mr. Roman then accelerated toward a station wagon that Sgt. Scott had just entered, committing an assault with a deadly weapon. Believing that Mr. Roman had run Sgt. Scott over, the deputies fired several rounds at Mr. Roman. A second volley of shots were fired when Mr. Roman again accelerated in the direction of deputies. In both instances, deputies fired to protect fellow deputies and themselves. For the reasons set forth above, we conclude that each of the named deputies acted lawfully in defense of themselves and others. We are therefore closing our file and will take not further action in this matter."